(Pranab Mukherjee's) official visit to the US from June 27—30, 2005. The document includes provisions for co-operation to enhance the capabilities of the US and Indian armed forces to deal with terrorism, disasters and the spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD); expand defence trade, production and technology relationship with the US; and promote regional and global peace and stability; jointly or with others through expanded interaction with other nations.

(b) and (c) The New Framework document will not affect India's defence arrangements/agreements with Russia or any other country.

Defective Barrels used in T 72 tanks

900. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some defective barrels had been used in T 72 tanks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of accidents which occurred due to this during the last three years; and

(d) the steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) T-72 barrels are being produced under license according to the technical specifications and guidelines provided by the Russian experts. All the barrels are tested and proof fired according to the specified quality standards, before issue to army. However, cases of barrels burst have been reported during exploitation of the T-72 tanks, involving both indigenous as well as imported barrels.

(c) During the last three years, 26 cases of burst (14 with imported barrels and 12 with indigenous barrels) have occurred.

(d) Cases of premature failure/barrel burst have been thoroughly investigated, and the opinion of Russian experts was also sought by Ministry of Defence. The suggested improvements in manufacturing process have been implemented. Some barrels, which are suspected to be defective were segregated and utilized for proof of ammunition only.